LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE TRAVANCORE RUBBER CONTROL BILL.

Mr. Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : Sir, I beg to move that the Travancore Rubber Control Bill as passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly be taken into consideration.

Sir, it is known to the honourable members of this House that rubber was a prosperous cultivation till a few years ago when the prices languished and rubber became practically of little value. Estates were neglected and all the cultivators were in great distress. At that time many of the rubber producing countries joined together and came to an agreement known as the International Rubber Restriction Agreement The object of it was to regulate the production and export of rubber in and from the rubber producing countries and to reduce the existing world stocks of rubber to a normal figure and adjust supply to demand so that prices may become reasonably remunerative to the efficient producer. The agreement was signed in London on the 7th May 1934. One of the terms of the agreement was the restriction of the further cultivation of rubber. Another term was the restriction of export. This has been arranged by customs notifications. This Bill provides for the restriction of the cultivation of rubber. There is also provision for the inspection of factories with a view to check the production of rubber. It is necessary that Government or some other agency appointed by them, should go to the rubber holdings and rubber factories and inspect them if necessary. The provisions of the Bill are drawn exactly on the lines of the corresponding provisions of the Indian Rubber Control Act. At this point, I may say that, by adhering to the international agreement Travancore has to enact a legislation identical to the legislation passed by other adhering countries. It has become imperative that we also pass a legislation like that obtaining elsewhere. The Indian Rubber Control Act was passed in 1934 and we are already in 1936-37. It must be said that we are already late. The reason for that also may be mentioned. The export quota allotted to Travancore was small and Travancore refused to join the scheme unless the quota was raised. The quota was subsequently raised. After that, the Bill was prepared and placed in the Lower House. Now it is necessary to pass this legislation as early as possible. I trust the House will agree to this Bill being passed.

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Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know from the member whether there is any correct statement of affairs as to the actual area of Travancore under rubber control ?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Yes. I may tell for the information of the honourable member, Mr. Narayana Aiyar, that there is a publication called a Directory of Rubber Estates and Holdings in India, excluding Burma. This is published by the Rubber Licensing Committee. I may pass on a copy of the book to him if he wants.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: That was a statement prepared at an earlier date.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: This list relates to 1935. There may be another list for 1936.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know who prepared the statement?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: The Rubber Licensing Committee.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether Government can prepare a correct statement of the Rubber Control area in Travancore in view of the Bill under consideration ?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Government also have certain agencies in collecting some statistics. But the lists prepared by the Rubber Licensing Committee are more reliable since they prepare the same after actual inspection of the areas at the spot.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether Government scrutinise the correctness of these statements ?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: That is all done by the Rubber Licensing Committee. They have jurisdiction over the whole of India. Travancore being an important rubber producing country the Committee sits in Kottayam. They have got greater facilities for coming into touch with the several rubber estates and to know what the condition of the rubber estates are. They prepare the statement and publish it.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: If any area under cultivation is excluded in the list, how is it to be included-in whom should the responsibility of scrutiny or verification rest?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: They will have to apply to the Rubber Licensing Committee.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Is there any time limit fixed in that case ?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I do not think that any such time limit has been fixed.

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Mr. K. Sankaralingam Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Is not a notification published in the Gazette?

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Which notification?

Mr. K. Sankaralingam Pillai: The Licensing Committee's notification.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I think it was published in the newspapers. I am not aware whether it was published in the Gazette.

Mr. K. George: I second the motion.

President: It has been moved and seconded that this Bill be taken for consideration by this House.

The motion was carried.

President: The Bill will now be considered. No amendment is forthcoming. But I do not wish to cramp this discussion. I propose, unless it is objected to, to put the whole Bill before the House instead of taking it clause by clause. If there is no objection I shall do so.

The question before the House is that Clauses 1 to 19 stand part of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 19 were put to vote and added to the Bill.

The Preamble and Title of the Bill were also put to the vote and carried and added to the Bill.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: I now beg to move that the Travancore Rubber Control Bill be passed.

Mr. K. George: I second it.

The question that the Travancore Rubber Control Bill be passed was put and carried.

The Bill was passed.

THE TRAVANCORE ANCIENT MONUMENTS PRESERVATION BILL.

Mr. Kayalam Paramesvaran Pillai: Sir I beg to move that the Travancore Ancient Monuments Preservation Bill as passed by the Sri Mulam Assembly be taken into consideration.

The main object of this Bill is to provide for the preservation and protection of the ancient monuments in Travancore. Recent Archæological researches have shown that there are very valuable ancient monuments in Travancore and that the time has come when provision has to be made for their special protection. This Bill has been prepared on the lines of the corresponding Indian Act

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